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·COMMUNION WITH GOD·

COMMUNION WITH GOD.

VOLTAIRE
1789
MORS EST

COMMUNION WITH GOD;

OR

Morning and Evening Prayers

FOR A MONTH.

FOR PRIVATE USE.

BY M. L. M. D.

WITH PREFACE

BY THE REV. JOHN DAWSON, B.A.,
INCUMBENT OF HOLY TRINITY, TORQUAY.

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Preface.

THE Prayers contained in this little volume have been drawn up for the purpose of supplying a want which has frequently been expressed. Many devout and earnest followers of Jesus wish to possess some forms of prayer which they can use as aids to devotion. For this purpose these prayers have been compiled. Each individual Christian should undoubtedly make known his own wants, in his own words, at the throne of grace; but there are times when communion with God is difficult, when thoughts flow with sluggish pace, and when the needed words refuse to come. At such seasons as these, help is especially required. It is hoped that the accompanying prayers may prove of service at such times. They are intended to be suggestive,—setting forth topics and subjects on which each one who uses them may enlarge; and if

they are used in regular course, I believe that, in the highest sense, they will be found helps in the deepening of the spiritual life. I earnestly hope and pray that the desire of the Author may be fulfilled, that this little manual may be blest by God, to the comfort and strengthening of His people, and to the glory of His holy name.

J. DAWSON.

TORQUAY, *June* 1883.

Prayer.

"*In everything by prayer aud supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.*"—PHILIPPIANS iv. 6.

PRAYER is the soul's sincere desire,
  Utter'd or unexpress'd;
The motion of a hidden fire,
  That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh;
  The falling of a tear;
The upward glancing of an eye,
  When none but God is near.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath;
  The Christian's native air;
His watchword at the gates of death;
  He enters heaven with prayer.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
  Returning from his ways;
While angels in their songs rejoice,
  And cry, "Behold, he prays!"

Nor prayer is made on earth alone;
  The Holy Spirit pleads;
And Jesus on the eternal throne
  For sinners intercedes.

O, Thou by whom we come to God,
  The Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod;
  Lord, teach us how to pray.

—MONTGOMERY.

Sunday Morning.

ALMIGHTY FATHER! look down from heaven, and hear me as I approach Thee, on this Thine own day, to thank Thee for having spared me during the night. Fix my heart on Thee, and prepare me for the sacred ordinances in which I am about to engage. When I am in Thy house, enable me to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. May no earthly thoughts disturb my mind, or draw me away from Thee. O gracious Lord, Thou hast done so much for me, how can I ever sufficiently love and praise Thee; my heart is so cold and easily led astray. O give me a devout and believing heart warmed by Thy love and taught by Thy Spirit. When Thy word is read or preached,

speak to me, Lord, for Thy servant heareth, and pour down a full blessing upon my soul, out of the riches of Thy grace. Of myself I can do nothing; but Thou hast promised Thy Holy Spirit to all who ask. Fulfil Thy gracious promise now, for I cannot come to Thee unless Thou draw me. Draw me then, that I may run after Thee, and bring me to Thy banquetting house, where Thy banner over me is love! Let not Thy word return unto Thee void, but may it arouse the careless, and comfort the sorrowful, and relieve the oppressed, that so by Thy favour all may obtain the blessing they need for this life, and for the world to come. Hear me, O Father, through the merits, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer. Amen.

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Sunday Evening.

O LORD, at the close of Thy holy day, I would praise Thee for all Thy mercies, spiritual and temporal. Thou art the hearer of prayer, and it is by Thee alone that I can offer Thee acceptable worship. Mercifully look upon my infirmities, and pardon all that Thou hast seen amiss in the worship of the past day. Fix in my mind the truths contained in Thy word, and give me a deep sense of my own weakness and unworthiness, and of Thine infinite power and goodness. Let me not be guilty of drawing near to Thee with the lips, whilst the heart is far from Thee; but quicken my affections that my heart may be stayed and fixed on Thee. May I so ask that I may obtain, and may the door of my heart be ever open to receive Thee, my Saviour and

my God. And as Thou hast, O Father, this day preserved me by Thy goodness, vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, this night to overshadow me with Thy wings, and protect me with Thy heavenly mercy, that sleeping or waking I may be under Thy care, ready at any moment to enter into Thy presence, where there is fulness of peace and joy. I ask all in the name of Jesus Christ, my Advocate and Redeemer. Amen.

Monday Morning.

O LORD, Heavenly Father, in whose hands are all things, and who hast created them all for Thy glory, whose loving care has preserved me to see another day, I would praise Thee for Thy goodness, and ask for Thy Holy Spirit to rule and govern my heart and mind, that I may have grace to walk in the light of Thy countenance. Give me a sanctified and humble spirit, that I may not wander from Thy paths. O Lord, Thou art faithful and just, and Thou delightest in mercy; forgive me all my sins, and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. O! remember all Thy great and precious promises made to sinners, and may my faith and hope be increased. O my Father, I would not live to myself, but to Thee. Make me watchful, and do Thou watch over me.

Hold up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. Keep me under Thy sheltering care. Blessed Jesus, I trust in Thine all-prevailing intercession: undertake for me. Blessed Spirit, be Thou my Teacher, my Guide, and give me the joy of Thine abiding presence. I ask all through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Monday Evening.

O THOU High and Holy One, who inhabitest eternity, help me to draw near unto Thee, and give me a thankful heart for the blessings of the day. Strengthen me, and bless me with Thy Holy Spirit, and may every thought be brought in obedience to Thee. Thou art my ever-present Lord and Friend. O! support me by Thy grace, and have compassion upon Thy servant. Remove every cloud that darkens my soul, and shine upon me. O Thou Sun of Righteousness, may Thy bright beams bring healing to my heart. I have no power unless it is given me from above, therefore I flee to Thee for help. Thou knowest the dangers to which my soul is exposed, and when I would do good, evil is present with me. O gracious and loving Saviour, let

not the enemy prevail. Thou Thyself wast tempted, and art able to succour those who are tempted. Leave me not for one moment lest I fall, and pray for me that my faith fail not. Let me not, O Lord, be taken up with the things of time, but make me think more of eternity. O! rest my soul on Christ, and keep me in perfect peace. Bless all who are dear to me, and hear me, and receive me, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Tuesday Morning.

O GRACIOUS GOD and Heavenly Father, who hast preserved me safely during the past night, I would begin this day with Thee. I would dedicate myself to Thee, body, soul, and spirit. Be pleased, O Lord, to accept my service and use me for Thy glory. I acknowledge, indeed, that my best and holiest service is imperfect, and tainted by sin; but Thou acceptest the humble and believing heart, and, therefore, Lord, I lay before Thee all my powers as a willing offering. At the same time, I beseech Thee, O Heavenly Father, to give me Thy Holy Spirit abundantly, that I may serve Thee better, and devote myself more unreservedly to Thy service. Elevate my desires, purify my affections, and fix my heart entirely on Thyself. Enable me to

say, "This one thing I do," and give me power to "press toward the mark, for the prize of my high calling in Christ Jesus." Grant that everything I undertake may be "begun, continued, and ended in Thee," and that, in all things, I may alone seek Thy glory. Thus may I lead the heavenly life here below, and having fellowship with Thee, and communion with my Saviour, through the Holy Ghost, may I ever be ready for that time, when Thou shalt call me away. Be pleased, O Lord, to answer my prayer through Him who loved me and gave Himself for me, even Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Tuesday Evening.

LORD, teach me to number my days that I may apply my heart unto wisdom! Another day has passed with its sins and follies, and I am nearer eternity. O Father, forgive all that Thine holy eye has seen displeasing to Thee—every word, or thought that has grieved Thy blessed Spirit; and cleanse Thou me from my secret faults. I thank Thee for the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness, where I may wash and be clean, and I ask Thee for faith to cast myself entirely on Thy free grace and mercy. Most gracious God, Thou didst give Thy beloved Son for me, and with Him, Thou wilt give all things needful for my soul and body, for in Him, all fullness dwells. May Thy tender compassion bow to my weakness, and Thy divine patience

bear with my unfaithfulness! I will, now, Lord, lay me down in peace and sleep, for it is Thou alone who makest me to dwell in safety. Bless all my loved ones far and near, and make them Thine. Gracious Father, hear and answer me, I beseech Thee, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Wednesday Morning.

O MERCIFUL GOD and Father, whose ear is ever open to receive the prayer of Thy children, look down this morning and hear me when I draw near unto Thee. The day is Thine, O Lord, may I receive it as Thy gift, and do Thou enable me by Thy grace to fulfil every duty as unto Thee. Whether it be a day of sickness or health, joy or sorrow, let me receive it with thanksgiving, and let me become more closely united to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let me trust and not be afraid. And as Thy mercies are renewed every morning, may my fellowship with the Lord Jesus be deepened by the power of the Holy Spirit. Daily Thou dost load me with benefits! O! may I daily perform my vows! Let me not be tempted to sin, but fix mine eyes on

Jesus, my great Example. May I remember that for my sake He endured temptation and suffering, and that He now feels for me in my weakness and difficulties. Dear Saviour, I look to Thee for sympathy and help, for Thou alone art able to succour them that are tempted. O Lord! make me more than conqueror over sin and Satan, through Him that loved me, and gave Himself for me. Let me no longer live for sin and self, but lead me in the right way. Help me to trust Thee more, and in all things to make my requests known unto Thee. Bless my friends wherever they may be, wash them in the precious blood of Jesus, sanctify them by Thy Holy Spirit, and grant them every blessing. O Father! I ask all through the mediation of Thine own beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Wednesday Evening.

O GOD, by whose Fatherly mercy and love I have been spared through the day. I come to thank Thee for Thy preserving care, and ask Thee to pardon all my sins, and purge me from all iniquity. My hope is in Thee, for Thou art gracious, and delightest in mercy. Thou willest not the death of a sinner, but that he should repent and live. Turn me, good Lord, and I shall be turned. Give me a new and a converted heart. Be Thou the strength of my life, my refuge and my portion for ever. Lord, forgive my enemies, if I have any. Those who have spoken or acted unfriendly against me, change their hearts, and teach me to forgive, even as I hope to be forgiven. Be with Thy suffering ones through the night, and comfort them with Thy presence. The

darkness is no darkness to Thee; in Thy light may they see light. May my soul rest in Thine everlasting arms, and when I awake, if it should please Thee, to see another day, may I still be with Thee, that sleeping or waking I may be Thine. Hear me, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Thursday Morning.

ALMIGHTY GOD and Eternal Father, who hast given Thine only Son, both as a sacrifice for sin and an example of godly life, give me grace to come before Thee with deep humility, and to learn of Jesus to be meek and lowly in heart. At the beginning of the day, I would praise Thee for Thy loving care through the night, and commit myself anew to Thy gracious keeping. I am not worthy to lift up mine eyes to heaven, much less to come before Thee; but Thou hast bid me come, and trust in Thy mercy. Thou wilt not despise the sighing of a contrite heart, for Thou art my Father, and I am Thy child, and Thou hast bought me with the precious blood of Jesus. Grant, O Lord, that I may never receive Thy grace in vain; but enable me to live, day by day, like one

who believes in the realities and joys of heaven. Give me Thy Holy Spirit, to bear witness with my spirit that I am Thy child, and may Thy peace possess my soul. Let not the world and its pleasures ensnare my heart, for Thou alone art worthy of my love. Pardon all my past coldness, and increase my longings after Thee. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Make me sincere and patient toward all men, gentle and kind in my intercourse with others, that in all things I may follow Thee. And all I ask, gracious Father, is through Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Thursday Evening.

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, who art the Giver of every good and perfect gift, lend an ear now, I beseech Thee, unto my prayer, at the close of another day. Thou hast graciously preserved me, and I would thank Thee for all Thy mercies. May I never forget that for all I say and do, Thou wilt require an account. Forgive all my sins, wash me in the precious and atoning blood of Thy dear Son, and enable me to believe that being justified by Thy grace there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Thy grace, Lord, is almighty, Thy power infinite; let me not then look at my difficulties, or my weakness, but to Thy free grace and perfect righteousness, and thus may I obtain pardon and peace. Father, I wish to love Thee

more, with all my heart, and soul, and strength. May Thy love constrain me to manifest my love to Thee by a holier and more useful life. Give me faith to believe what Thou hast revealed respecting the riches of Thy grace, and to expect to receive Thine exceeding great and precious promises. Teach me patiently to submit to Thy will, and praise Thee for all Thy dealings. And now, Lord, I commit myself, and all whom I love, to Thy tender care. Watch over us through the night, let no danger come near us, and may it please Thee, that we wake in the morning to praise and love Thee more, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

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Friday Morning.

O BLESSED LORD! what cause I have for thankfulness; I am surrounded by mercies! It is of Thy goodness that I am spared to see the light of a new day. O! may it be spent in Thy service. When I look back upon the years that are past, I mourn over my shortcomings and ingratitude; yet Thou art waiting to be gracious, and to forgive all my sins, and Thou canst sanctify me wholly. Lord, hear my cry, and grant me a deep sense of my utter unworthiness, and of thy great goodness, that my soul may daily praise Thee with joyful lips. Enable me to grow in grace, that I may discover more of my own weakness, and more of the preciousness and fulness of Christ. May I trust Jesus more, and have no confidence in the flesh, and may I ever be looking

for that blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of Jesus. Enable me to live, day by day, with this in view, and may the glad response of my heart be, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly." May Thy grace sustain me, and Thy hand lead me, gracious Father, and be Thou my guide, even unto death. Hear me, O Lord, for all I ask is in the name of Jesus, in whom alone I have righteousness and strength, and to whom with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, be glory now and evermore. Amen.

Friday Evening.

GRACIOUS LORD, at the close of the day, I come to praise Thee for Thy watchful care, and for all the blessings which Thy love has bestowed upon me. Thou hast preserved me through unseen dangers, and surrounded me with innumerable comforts. O! give me a thankful heart! And now, O Father, the day is past, and again I have to confess and mourn over sins and transgressions dishonouring to Thee. Pardon me for my Saviour's sake. Lord, Thou knowest our frame, Thou rememberest that we are but dust; and as high as the heavens are above the earth, so are Thy thoughts above man's thoughts, and Thy ways above our ways. Thou art rich in mercy, and willing to forgive the chief of sinners coming to Thee through Jesus, the new and living Way,

therefore I come to Thee. Hear me now, and receive me as Thy pardoned child! Gracious Father, Thou knowest what I need, nothing is too hard for Thee, Thou wilt withhold no good thing from those who seek Thee. O! gladden me with Thy presence, and lift up the light of Thy reconciled countenance upon me. Bless all who are dear to me, and draw them to Thyself. Be with us throughout the night, guard us from danger, and refresh us with sleep under Thy loving care. And all I ask is through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Mediator. Amen.

Saturday Morning.

O MERCIFUL GOD and Father, once more I come to Thee, by Jesus Christ, my Saviour, to ask for Thy blessing. Let Thine eye of mercy be upon me, and graciously hear my prayer. Help me, Lord, to feel and know that I am in Thy presence, and speaking to Thee. May it be my first desire to please Thee in everything. O Father, I would thank Thee for bringing me in safety to the beginning of another day; may it be spent for Thee. Lord, I thank Thee for the throne of grace, and that I can plead the precious name of Jesus. I am about to go into the world; the business of the day is before me. O! keep my soul, let me not be of the world; keep me from sin, and suffer not Satan to lead me astray from Thee; keep me in Thy way, and in Thy truth, and keep

me close to Thee, by Thy Spirit. Let me be clothed in the robe of Thy righteousness, and cleansed in Thy precious blood. Keep me at Thy foot-stool, and draw my wandering heart to Thee. Blessed Lord, make me more than conqueror over every sin. Make me ever watchful for my Lord's return, when I shall see Him as He is, and be changed into His likeness. O Father, bless me this morning, and raise my affections to things above. Be with all who are dear to me, and fix their hearts on Thee, that they may glorify Thy holy name, through Jesus Christ, my only Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

Saturday Evening.

AT the close of the week, most gracious God, I come in my Saviour's name to praise Thee for all the mercies and blessings Thou hast bestowed upon me. Notwithstanding all my short-comings, Thou art still merciful, and waiting to forgive. Lord, pardon the sins of the past day, and cast them all behind Thy back. Let me never forget that Thou art always present with me, seeing all my actions, and hearing all my words. Lord, I am not my own, I am bought with a price, even the blood of Jesus. Let me ever remember the great things Thou hast done for my soul, and may my gratitude be increased daily. Thou, gracious Father, changest not; our friends and feelings may change, but Thy love is unchanged, and Thy sheep shall never perish. O! take me into the fold of the

Good Shepherd, and enable me daily to realize more and more Thy great love to me. Help me now to lay aside worldly things, and prepare me, by Thy Holy Spirit, for the blessing of Thy holy day, that it may be for the strengthening and refreshing of my soul. Be with Thy ministering servants, and teach them, that they may be faithful in making known Thy truth. Bless all whom I love, and draw them very near to Thee. O Thou great and glorious Jehovah, who never slumberest nor sleepest, watch over us through the darkness of the night, and fill our hearts with that peace which passeth understanding. All I ask is in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Sunday Morning.

O HOLY LORD GOD, who searchest the heart, and knowest our inmost thoughts, I come before Thee to thank Thee for sparing me through the night, and permitting me to see another day. Lord, it is Thine own day, set apart for prayer and praise; enable me to worship Thee, in spirit and in truth, that my service may find acceptance with Thee, through Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Make me very sincere, that I may not deceive myself or others with merely the appearance of religion, but be pure in heart; and give me the grace of humility. Root out pride and selfishness, for in me dwelleth no good thing, and I am less than the least of Thy servants. O! come and dwell in

my heart, by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, and work in me what is pleasing to Thee, that I may follow Thee wholly. There are many, O Father, who know Thee not—send out Thy light and Thy truth, to bring them out of darkness, into Thy light. Bless all who are dear to me, and number them amongst Thine own redeemed people. And all I ask is in the name and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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Sunday Evening.

O MY GOD, at the close of Thine own day, I would thank Thee for all the spiritual privileges Thou hast so graciously given me. Let them not rise up and condemn me; but may Thy word have found an entrance in my heart, and bear fruit to Thy glory. O Holy Spirit, be Thou ever present with me, to direct and govern my thoughts, and words, and actions, to strengthen and assist me in every duty, that I may not be faint or weary in Thy service. Enrich my understanding with the knowledge of Thy truth, and fill my soul, O Lord, with the gifts and graces of Thy blessed Spirit, that I may delight to do Thy will. Take this cold heart of mine and quicken it. Sanctify my soul with heavenly blessings that it may be made Thy holy habitation. Protect and

keep me through the coming night, and when earthly Sabbaths are no more, may I enjoy with Thee that eternal Sabbath which awaits the people of God. O Father, hear and answer me, in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer and Saviour. Amen.

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Monday Morning.

GRACIOUS LORD, I beseech Thee, teach me to pray! When I draw near to Thee, help me to know in whose presence I am. Pour upon me the spirit of prayer and supplication, and give me faith to believe that Thou wilt give me whatever I ask, if it be according to Thy will. Thou knowest all I need, and Thou alone canst supply my every want. I need the sense of Thy presence and love every moment of the day. I need Thy grace to keep, and Thy wisdom to guide, not only my actions and words, but my thoughts and motives. I want Thee to fill every recess of my heart. Come then, O Lord, and satisfy my longing soul. Hast Thou not said, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." Lord, I believe, help Thou mine

unbelief, and give peace to my waiting soul. Awaken in me a true spirit of prayer, that I may have real communion and fellowship with Thee. Gracious God, I wait upon Thee. Give me a full blessing, even Thyself, give me faith to expect much, and grant me even more than I can ask or think, for the sake and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, my own and only Saviour. Amen.

✠

Monday Evening.

LORD JESUS, I wish to thank Thee for Thy gracious invitation to the weary sinner, "Come unto Me and I will give thee rest." I come at the close of this day to praise Thee for the many mercies received, and to ask for pardon through Thine own precious blood. O! give me the rest of forgiveness, the full assurance of faith, the childlike confidence which can cry, "Abba, Father." Take away all formality and coldness, and soften my heart by a sense of Thy tender love, that it may be fixed entirely on Thee, and realize the warmth of Thy love. In myself I am weak and sinful. Look not upon me as I am, but as complete in Christ. Cover me with the robe of His perfect righteousness, and thus place me amongst Thy perfect ones. O Father, I thank Thee

that Jesus is our wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; that He is all I need, my all in all! May Thy Spirit reveal this truth to my heart increasingly, and may I thus find rest in Thee. And all I ask is in His great and glorious name, Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

✠

Tuesday Morning.

O ETERNAL Son of God, who, to save sinners, didst become man—the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, look with mercy upon Thy servant now kneeling before Thee. Thou didst die to take away my sins, and now Thou livest to intercede for me before the throne of God. I humbly beseech Thee to enable me to realize these great truths, and to bring them to my remembrance continually, by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, that all fear may be removed from my heart, and be replaced by peace and joy. Lord, increase my faith, and let not my spiritual enemies get any advantage over my soul. Enable me to fix mine eyes upon Jesus, the Captain of my salvation; and being clothed in His armour, may I be enabled to fight the good fight of faith, and

resist the wiles of the Evil One. O Father, Thou hast prepared for those who love Thee such good things as pass man's understanding. Let the sense of Thy great love be impressed upon my heart, and influence it to greater watchfulness, that I may not grieve Thee by inconsistencies, but walk closer with Thee. Make me careful to do Thy holy will, that I may adorn the doctrine of Christ, my Saviour, in all things, and that Thou mayest be glorified in me. Gracious Father, hear and answer me for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

✠

Tuesday Evening.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, hear me now from heaven, Thy dwelling place, and when Thou hearest, forgive. Thou alone art the hope of all who trust in Thee, and now I come in all my helplessness to ask for Thy blessing. Thou alone hast power to forgive; and I come asking Thee to wash me in the precious blood of Christ, my Saviour. I praise Thee for Thy preserving and preventing grace. O! make me increasingly sensible of this, that my love may abound more and more. Lighten mine eyes that I sleep not the sleep of death. Defend me from unseen dangers, through the darkness of night, for Thou never slumberest nor sleepest. And keep me, Lord, and all who are dear to me, in peace and safety.

Enlarge my heart with thankfulness, and may my life show forth Thy praise. Teach me to hate sin, and at all times to avoid the very appearance of evil, that whatever I do may be for Thy glory. Then, Lord, when Thou callest me hence, may it be to rise up higher, and be for ever with Thee in Thy glory. Hear me, gracious Father, for the sake of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

✠

Wednesday Morning.

MOST gracious and blessed Lord, Thou hast of Thy goodness brought me in safety to the beginning of another day, and I would thank Thee for Thy preserving care. I know that each day is Thine own loving gift. Help me to realize this truth, and to live nearer to Thee, as I shall wish I had done if it should prove my last. Help me to remember, that when I stand before Thee, I shall have to give an account of all I have done. O Father, it is only as I abide in Christ, that I can bear fruit or do anything pleasing in Thy sight, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Give me, Lord, a deeper insight into Thy will, that I may, by Thy Holy Spirit, be enabled to keep Thy commandments. Let me not be content with knowing the truth, but may I be filled

with the knowledge of Thy will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Hide Thy law within my heart, and grant me grace to yield myself entirely to Thee, and to walk in the light of Thy truth. Lord, shew me more of Thy love, that it may constrain me to love Thee more, and to live no longer to myself, but to Him who has redeemed me with His precious blood, even Jesus Christ, my Saviour, in whose name, O heavenly Father, I draw near to Thee. Amen.

Wednesday Evening.

GRACIOUS LORD, at the close of the day I draw near unto Thee, and would praise Thee for all Thou hast done for me. Many have been exposed to dangers, whilst I have been kept from harm; goodness and mercy have followed me through the day, and now I am about to lie down to sleep. O Thou who art the Shepherd of Israel, be pleased to watch over me, and keep all evil far from me. Forgive all Thou hast seen displeasing to Thee—all worldly mindedness, all forgetfulness of Thee. Give me a forgiving spirit, remembering how much I have been forgiven; and lead me at all times to deal tenderly with others. Cleanse Thou me from my secret faults, and make Thy grace work powerfully in my heart, that I may become more like Christ in thought,

and word, and life. O! may my life be hid with Christ in God. Make me gentle and kind, even when disappointed or provoked, that I may not bring dishonour on the holy name of Jesus. Give me a teachable spirit, that I may be humble, ever ready to do or bear whatever is Thy will concerning me that Thou mayest be glorified. May my last thoughts be with Thee, gracious and loving Lord; so that sleeping or waking I may be Thine. I ask all in the name and through the mediation of Thine own beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Redeemer. Amen.

Thursday Morning.

MOST blessed and gracious Lord, the Father of all mercies, and the Author of all the blessings I enjoy, I am not worthy to approach Thee, yet Thou hast invited me to come and ask for Thy blessing at the beginning of a new day. Give me the spirit of adoption, that I may come as Thy child, with a deep sense of Thy great love to me. Take away this cold stony heart of mine, and give me a heart capable of receiving Thee fully, and shewing forth Thy praise. Enable me, gracious Father, to remember all Thine exceeding great and precious promises, and may they comfort my soul. My failings are many, I am utterly powerless, and if Thou wert extreme to mark iniquity, I could not stand before Thee; but Thou delightest in mercy, and hast laid on Jesus the iniquity

of us all. I plead thy blessed promises, O Lord, and trust only in Thy love. Guide my thoughts and words, that all I do this day may be in accordance with Thy will. Make me more heavenly-minded, more pure in heart; and be Thou my guide and friend in all the concerns and duties of the day. Enable me so to pass through things temporal that I lose not that which is eternal. May my treasure be in heaven, and there may my heart be also. Hear me, O Father, through Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Thursday Evening.

O ETERNAL and gracious Lord, who hast created and sustained me from my birth unto this hour. Thou hast blessed me all the days of my life, yet what return have I made to Thee? Sin has marked my best endeavours, and I can only cry unclean, unclean. Even during the past day, how much of self has been mixed with all my doings! Give me, Lord, unfeigned repentance for all my mistakes and shortcomings, and come and speak peace to my waiting soul. Let me hear Thy voice, saying, "I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions, and as a cloud thy sins." Forgive all hastiness of temper, and make me more watchful over the very beginning of sin. Give me power and strength to resist temptation, and may Thy Holy Spirit in all things

rule my heart. Let me not love the world, nor its vanities, let me not obey the sinful desires of my own evil heart, but renewed by Thy grace, may I follow Thee more closely for the time to come, and live more to Thy glory. O Father, hear and accept me, for the sake of Him whom Thou hearest always, Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Friday Morning.

MOST merciful God and Father, wilt Thou be pleased to pour out a blessing upon me as I kneel before Thee, and prepare my heart to receive it! I thank Thee that I may come into Thy presence. I thank Thee that my sins were laid on Jesus, and that His blood is cleansing me day by day. O Lord, keep from me all doubt and unbelief, increase my faith, and enable me to glorify Thee in my daily life. I thank Thee that I may come to Thee for whatever I want, and that Thou wilt not withhold any good thing from those who love Thee. Thou seest me in secret, and knowest my inmost thoughts. O! enable me to realize this, and to seek first Thy kingdom and righteousness here on earth, that I may have an abundant entrance into the kingdom

of glory hereafter. I confess to Thee my coldness and hardness of heart. Lord, pardon it all, and give me grace to walk in newness of life. Give me the spirit of prayer, and draw out my soul in more earnest longings for a fuller revelation of Thyself, and for more holiness of heart and life. Teach me to love to think of Thine appearing, and make me ever ready to meet Thee when Thou comest for Thy redeemed ones. Prepare me for that solemn time when I shall see Thee as Thou art, in all Thine unveiled beauty, and so clothe me with my Saviour's righteousness that I may be accepted in Thy sight "complete in Him." Graciously hear and answer my humble prayer, for Thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Friday Evening.

O MOST gracious and bountiful Lord, who art good and doest good, I adore and bless Thy holy name for the mercies of the past day. I am unworthy of the least of Thy mercies, yet they are continued to me. I praise Thee for Thy preventing and assisting grace. I thank Thee for Thy patience and long-suffering, notwithstanding my many provocations. O! how great is Thy goodness to the children of men. Lord, give me grace to use Thy blessings here that they may be an earnest of those richer blessings prepared in heaven for those who love Thee. Pardon every thought and word that has not been in accordance with Thy holy will, and make me watchful lest I grieve Thee. Lift up the light of Thy countenance upon me, and guide me with Thy counsel. Thou,

Lord, knowest far better than I do what is needful for me, therefore teach me to trust Thee with implicit confidence and faith. Preserve me from the perils and dangers of the night. Let not my heart be troubled with worldly cares, but may it rest and be stayed on Thee, so that when Thou callest me hence, it may be to awake up in Thy likeness and be for ever with the Lord. Grant this, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Saturday Morning.

O GOD, merciful and gracious, who art more ready to hear than we are to pray, give me Thy Holy Spirit as I draw near to Thee this morning. I thank Thee for Thy watchful care through the past night, and I come for a fresh supply of Thy grace for the duties of this day. Keep me near to Thee, and use me as Thou pleasest, an instrument for Thy glory. Blessed Jesus, teach me to trust Thee in all things, hold me with Thy right hand, and let me not stray from Thee. May Thy grace refresh my soul. Often, Lord, I form the resolution of giving myself entirely to Thee, but I utterly fail. Of myself I can do nothing; it is Thou alone who canst will and work in me. O! work in me then Thy good pleasure, and put Thy fear in my heart, that I may not depart from Thee,

but ever looking unto Jesus, may I be strong in the Lord. Teach me the blessed truth contained in the Scriptures, and open my heart to receive it as the guide of my life. Take away pride and every evil temper, and everything that hinders my coming to Thee. Bless me this day in my intercourse with others, let me speak for Thee, O Lord, and not shrink from taking up the daily cross and following Thee. Be Thou with me every moment, and speak comfortably to my soul, that I may not be discouraged in the heavenly way. "Now unto Him who is able to keep me from falling, and to present me faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Saturday Evening.

O MOST gracious Lord, at the close of the day I come before Thee, asking for Thy favour and blessing. Another week has passed, and I am nearer eternity. Grant me pardon for all my sins, and for all that has grieved Thy blessed Spirit. Lord, I take Thee at Thy word. Thou art able to save to the uttermost all who come to Thee; save me now and reconcile me to Thyself. I wish to abide in Thee, to cling to Thee with all humility. Purify and cleanse my heart from all sin, and may Thy gracious spirit work in me; that I may be kept from the power and dominion of sin. I am so apt to forget Thy love and power and my nothingness. Teach me to depend at all times and in all things on Christ alone, who gave Himself for me. Blessed Spirit, be Thou my

sanctifier, preparing me each moment for the performance of Thy will here, and for Thy presence hereafter. O! give me heavenly life to quicken me, heavenly light to direct me, and heavenly wisdom to counsel me. Then, Lord, when this life is done, Thou wilt receive me into glory. Prepare me for the worship of the Sanctuary on the approaching Sabbath, and may Thy word come with power to my heart, that it may bear fruit to Thy glory. All I ask is in the name of Jesus Christ, my Advocate and my Redeemer. Amen.

Sunday Morning.

MOST GRACIOUS GOD and Heavenly Father, enable me this day to realize into whose presence I have come, and to see Thee, not only as Eternal God, but my Eternal Father! Give me the spirit of adoption, and the confidence of a child when in Thy house, on this Thine own day. Keep worldly thoughts from me; open mine eyes that I may see new beauties in Thy word, and receive it as a message from God to my soul. Give me also the listening ear, that I may be ready to hear the voice of Jesus, and sit at His feet, and may Thy Holy Spirit so bring precious truths to my remembrance that I may treasure them and meditate upon them, for the strengthening of my soul and

Thy great glory. O Lord, look graciously upon me, and intercede for me with the Father, that all my sins may be forgiven, and that I may be kept close to Thee. I ask all in Thy great and all-prevailing name. Amen.

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Sunday Evening.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, blessed be Thy holy name for the blessings of the past day. Let them not rise up in judgment against me, but be the means of drawing me nearer to Thee. Not only hast Thou kept evil from me, but Thou hast refreshed me with the blessings of Thy word. Grant, Lord, that Thy truth may not only find an entrance, but a resting-place in my heart, that I may not be beguiled by the deceitfulness of sin, but have grace to watch and pray incessantly, lest I enter into temptation. Give me more and more Thy Holy Spirit to work in me whatever is pleasing in Thy sight, and enable me to bear fruit to Thy glory. O ! forgive the imperfection even of my holy things, and accept me just as I am, the chief of sinners. Gracious Father, Thou didst

not spare Thine own beloved Son, but didst freely give Him a ransom for sinners. O! then pardon me, for His sake, in whom Thou art always well-pleased, even Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

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Monday Morning.

O LORD, merciful and gracious, who art at all times lending an ear unto the prayer of Thy people, bow down Thine ear, and hear me now, draw me aside from the world with its cares or pleasures, and fix my heart on Thee. Lord, Thou knowest all things, my sins, my weakness, my unbelief; but Thou knowest also that I love Thee, and wish to follow Thee, not afar off, but near, so near that I may hear Thy faintest whisper, speaking peace and comfort to my heart. All my desire is unto Thee, but I am weak and cold. Of myself I can do nothing, and I pray Thee now to give me Thy Holy Spirit, to guide my thoughts, motives, and actions every moment, lest I wander from Thy paths. O Father, how great has been Thy love in bringing me out of darkness into Thy marvel-

lous light. Shine in all I say and do, that others may be drawn to Thee, that Thou mayest be glorified. Whether Thou callest me to health or sickness, joy or sorrow, may Thy light shine in me, and through me. Lord, I confess my weakness and my sinfulness, and seek pardon for all only in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Monday Evening.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, I thank Thee for Thy gracious and loving care during the past day. Forgive all that has been displeasing to Thee. Thine holy eye has seen my short-comings, my unfulfilled vows, my imperfect actions—may all be washed in the blood of Jesus that cleanseth from all sin. How continually I grieve Thee, yet Thou art waiting to forgive all who turn to Thee. Lord, I come, trusting Thy love, and knowing Thy power, and I pray Thee now to speak to my soul, and say thy sins are all forgiven. O! give me largely Thy Holy Spirit, that from henceforth it may be my humble and sincere endeavour to resist and conquer every evil inclination within, and every temptation from without. Watch over me through the

hours of darkness, and so grant me the sense of Thy presence, that sleeping or waking I may be with Thee, and may the peace of God which passeth understanding keep my heart and mind, through Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Tuesday Morning.

MOST gracious and ever living God, let Thine eye of mercy be upon me, now kneeling before Thee, and graciously hear my prayer. I wish to thank Thee for Thy loving care during the darkness of night. Thy mercies are renewed every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. May my gratitude be increased day by day. Lord, I feel my utter helplessness and unworthiness, yet I come to Thee with the burden of sin, and would lay it at Thy feet. O! take away everything that hinders me from perfect submission and consecration to Thy service. Keep me close to Thee, safe by Thy grace, and use me as an instrument for Thy glory. May every thought be in accordance with Thy holy mind and will. Make it my chief desire to please Thee in everything, and make Thy grace work

powerfully in my heart through Thy Holy Spirit. O! may He quicken my soul, and warm my affections, that, forgetting the things that are behind, I may press onward and upward, having my affections set on things above, and thus be enabled to live to Thy glory, through Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Tuesday Evening.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, look down upon me with Thy favour and blessing. Thy love has preserved me through the day, and now I would lay me down in peace and sleep, knowing that Thou wilt watch over me, and preserve me still. Forgive all the faults, and mistakes, and sins of the past day; many are unknown to me, but Thine holy eye has seen and marked all my thoughts and motives, as well as actions. I thank Thee for Thy gracious word, "The blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin." Wash me and make me whiter than snow. Take away all self-righteousness, and clothe me with humility. May Thy wondrous love in Christ Jesus subdue and soften my heart and make me lowly and meek. Teach me continually

to meditate on all Thou hast done for me, and let me not forget that at this moment Thou art standing before the Father's throne pleading Thy finished work for me. May the remembrance of this great truth bring comfort to my heart, and fill me with thankfulness. May my last thoughts be with Thee, O Lord, that I may realize Thy presence and blessing. Bless all who are dear to me, and keep them under Thy watchful care, through Jesus Christ, my Saviour, in whose name I ask for every blessing, and to whom be glory and praise, now and evermore. Amen.

Wednesday Morning.

O ETERNAL and gracious God and Father, who hast told us to come to Thee and make our requests known, teach me to pray. I know not what to ask for, unless Thy Holy Spirit help my infirmities, and teach me to pray according to Thy will. But He has shewn me my sinfulness, my weakness, so I come just as I am, trusting in Thy free grace, and mercy in Christ Jesus. He is the sin-bearer, and on Him I roll the burden of my guilt. Blessed Jesus, nothing is too small for Thy love. We can tell Thee everything. The very hairs of our head are numbered. Thou knowest each want of my soul, each care that troubles me, and each anxiety that arises, but Thy love overshadows all, and is making all work together for my good. Lord, give me faith to realize

this blessed truth. Make religion a living reality to my soul, interwoven with every movement of my life, that I may indeed abide in Thee, and be united to Thee by a living faith. And ever looking unto Jesus, may I seek His blessing in all I do, whether work or pleasure; thus may I abound more and more in the love of Christ, who gave Himself a ransom for my soul. O Father, hear and bless me for His great name's sake. Amen.

Wednesday Evening.

GRACIOUS and Eternal Father, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, I come before Thee at the close of the day to thank Thee for Thy tender watchful care, and all the blessings by which I have been surrounded. Bring to my remembrance the many shortcomings of the past day, and blot them out in the blood of Jesus. Thou hast opened out this precious fountain for sin and transgression, and I know Thou art ready to forgive. Lord, I am poor and weak. I come simply trusting Thy love and mercy, who can make the foulest clean. Let me not deceive myself with the mere appearance of goodness, but search me and know my heart. Cleanse me and know my thoughts, and lead me in the way of truth. Let Thine everlasting arms be around me through the

night, and may my sleeping thoughts be with Thee, who never slumberest nor sleepest, so that if Thou callest me away from earth, I may awake up to behold Thy likeness, and for ever be with the Lord, through Jesus Christ my Saviour, who loved me and redeemed me with His blood, and to whom be dominion and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Thursday Morning.

ETERNAL FATHER, and most gracious God, I thank Thee that Thou hast opened a new and living way by which we have access into Thy presence, and now I come pleading the merits of Christ, my Saviour. Grant, Lord, that I may rest on Him alone as my sure foundation, and that each moment I may be drawn nearer to Thee. O blessed Spirit, make me ever willing to come to Jesus with every care, and may I find the needed rest for my soul. Teach me to love Thy word more; give me faith to receive it as Thine own message, and grace to practise it, that I may not be only a hearer, but a doer of Thy word, understanding its spiritual meaning. Gracious Lord, I look to Thee alone for teaching. I depend upon Thee for every

good desire. It is Thou alone who canst make me holy in heart and life. Hear my prayer, and answer me now. Quicken me, O Holy Spirit, by Thy power, and increase my faith. O! loving Saviour, I know Thou art praying for me, and that my poor weak prayers are accepted through Thy merits and intercession. O Father, I thank Thee for this. Shew me Jesus more and more, and may these glimpses make me long for the time when I shall see Him as He is. And all I ask is in His great and glorious name. Amen.

Thursday Evening.

AGAIN, gracious Lord, at the close of the day, I come to thank Thee for Thy tender care and all Thy love. Help me to confess my many sins. I have done the things I ought not to have done, and left undone many things I ought to have done. Thine holy eye has seen it all, but Thou knowest my weakness—how often good resolutions are formed and not carried out. Pardon all Thou hast seen amiss, and give me grace to live closer to Thee. Give me patience in the midst of difficulties, and faith to grasp the precious promises of Thy word. Come and be with me through the night. May I at all times realize Thy presence, and rejoice in Thy love. Grant me peace and joy in believing, and may Thy joy be my strength. O! satisfy me early

with Thy mercy that I may rejoice, and be glad in Thee. Let not Satan get any advantage over me; but strong in the Lord, and the power of His might, make me more than conqueror, through Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

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Friday Morning.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, the hearer and answerer of prayer, I come to Thee to ask for Thy blessing. I am not worthy of the least of Thy mercies, yet Thou hast bid me come, and I plead the promise of Jesus, "Ask and it shall be given." Lord, give me faith that I may not only ask, but receive Thy blessing. I long to know Thee more, and to love thee better. I thank Thee that Thou art almighty, and not only willing, but able to save to the uttermost all who come to Thee. O! satisfy my longing soul; enable me to come as a little child, to tell Thee all my wants, and believe that Thou wilt give me exceeding abundantly above all I can ask or think. Thou hast invited me to come with boldness of access, or I dare not lift up my heart to Thee, and I know that "Him that

cometh to Thee, Thou wilt not cast out," therefore I come, poor and needy, helpless and ignorant, leaning on Thy wisdom, Thy power, Thy truth, and Thy love. In Thee, blessed Saviour, all fulness dwells, so I shall not go empty away. O gracious Spirit, I pray for grace to lay hold of Thy truth, that Thou mayest be glorified in me through Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Hear and answer my prayer, most merciful Father, in His great and glorious name. Amen.

Friday Evening.

O LORD, Heavenly Father, I draw near to Thee at the close of the day to thank Thee for all Thy mercies. Thou hast preserved me through unseen dangers, and spared me, whilst many have been called to their last account. Make me sensible of Thy great goodness, and may my lips not only express, but my life show forth, Thy praise. Let me never neglect the gracious invitations of my loving Saviour, but accept each as a fresh revelation of His great love to me. Pardon all my past forgetfulness and sin, all my coldness and hardness of heart, and make me sensible of Thy wondrous condescension in calling me to a knowledge of Thyself. O! reveal Thyself to me more fully, that I may not be taken up with the cares and pleasures of this life, but press

toward the mark for the heavenly prize. How often have I forgotten Thee, dearest Lord, yet Thou never hast forsaken me. Draw me very near, that ever looking unto Thee, I may be guided by Thine eye, and afterward be received into glory. I ask all in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, to whom with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be glory now and evermore. Amen.

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Saturday Morning.

MOST merciful God, by whose gracious providence I have been permitted to see the light of another day, accept my humble thanks for Thy goodness and preserving care. From Thee cometh every good and perfect gift. Mercifully look upon my weakness and frailty, and give me strength this day to walk in Thy paths. Lift up the light of Thy countenance upon me, and in Thy light may I see light. Give me a sense of my entire dependence upon Thee; without Thee I can do nothing, say nothing, that is pleasing to Thee. O Lord, order my goings in Thy ways, that my footsteps slip not, and teach me to set my affections on things above, and seek first in all things Thy kingdom and glory. Prepare me for the services of the sanctuary on the ap-

proaching Sabbath, and make Thy courts my delight. Be with Thy ministering servants; fill them with Thy Holy Spirit; may they be taught from above, and out of a full heart, constrained by the love of Christ, enabled to teach others, and be used by Thee to bring many to a saving knowledge of Thy truth. All which I beg in the name of Jesus Christ, my only Mediator and Redeemer, to whom, with the Father and Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory. Amen.

Saturday Evening.

O ETERNAL and everlasting God, in whose hand is the breath of life, I earnestly desire to thank Thee for all Thou hast done for me. O! may Thy Holy Spirit work in me whatsoever Thou seest wanting to fit me for Thy service above. Thou hast preserved me through the dangers of the day, and brought me to the close of another week. Give me true and deep repentance for all my shortcomings, blot out mine iniquities, and remember them no more, wean my heart from the world and its sinful vanities, and make me long after those joys which are at thy right hand for evermore. Enable me, gracious Father, to realize Thy great love to me through Jesus Christ. May I realize that for me there is pardon, reconciliation, and peace; for me there is a mansion prepared;

for me a personal Saviour. O! fill my heart with thankfulness and joy, clothe me with humility, and hide me under the shadow of Thy wings. Thus visit me with Thy salvation, that my faith fail not; and may I have grace to trust day by day more fully in the merits and suffering of my crucified Saviour, who ever liveth to make intercession for me. Hear me now, Gracious Father, for His sake, whom I know Thou hearest always. Amen.

Sunday Morning.

O LORD my Maker and Protector, I thank Thee for Thy gracious care of me throughout the night, and for the gift of this Thy holy day. Suffer not my heart to be burdened by worldly cares, but give me a foretaste of that rest which remaineth for the people of God—a heart at peace with Thee. When I hear and read Thy word, may it stir my heart to greater diligence, and may Thy Holy Spirit open my understanding that I may receive it with a mind ready to obey and follow Thee. Take away from me everything that can hinder the growth of the precious seed of Thy word, and may all my fresh springs be in Thee. O Father, there are many living without Thee—send forth

Thy light and Thy truth, that they may hear the joyful sound—and teach me to long and pray for that time when all shall know Thee, from the least to the greatest, and realize thine inexpressible love to lost sinners. Teach me to delight in Thy word, and make it now and ever, the rule and guide of my life. Hear me, gracious Lord, I beseech Thee, for the sake, and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for me. Amen.

Sunday Evening.

AT the close of Thine own day, O Heavenly Father, I come to Thee to praise Thee for all Thy mercies. O! may Thy word have been a light unto my path, and may it now abide within my heart, lest it depart from me. Gracious Spirit, make religion a living reality to me, an inward motive to prove that all my thoughts, words, and actions spring from Thee. I feel my utter weakness; I am unworthy of the least of Thy mercies. O! give me grace to trust Thee, and to live closer to Thee. Teach me that I may not only understand, but do Thy holy will. Draw my heart nearer to Thee. Make me to love, and serve, and praise Thee all my life through, and may I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord. Into

Thy hand I now commit my spirit. Watch over me and those whom I love through the darkness of night, and keep all evil far from us. Hear me, gracious Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thine own beloved Son. Amen.

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Monday Morning.

O GRACIOUS GOD and Father, who hast preserved me safely during the past night, and hast renewed my health and strength, I would begin this day with Thee. Thou hast created me for Thyself, and placed me here for a few years that I may glorify Thy holy name. O! keep me, I beseech Thee, to live for the great purposes for which I have my being. Of myself I am weak and sinful, and in my own strength I can do nothing which is well-pleasing in Thy sight. I am surrounded by many temptations, by which the world and Satan endeavour to draw me away from Thee. O! grant me the aid of Thy most Holy Spirit. May He plant in my heart good and holy desires, and may He give me strength to bring them to good effect. Grant that through His help I may love Thee above all

things, and serve Thee with all the devotion of my heart. Keep me, O Lord, from sinful thoughts, from hasty tempers, from rash words, and from foolish desires. Preserve me from selfish and worldly motives, and grant that in all things I may remember that I am Thy child, and that Thou art my Father. When I am tempted, O Lord, help and preserve me. Protect me from all the wiles and assaults of my spiritual enemies, and so help me with Thy presence that I may be enabled to walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness, and at all times and in every way to shew that I am Thine, not only in name, but in deed and in truth. O Lord, hear and answer me for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Monday Evening.

MOST gracious and eternal God, who knowest all things, and hast seen my shortcomings and sins during the past day. I come before Thee to plead the precious promises, and to ask for pardon in the name of Jesus, who died that I might live. I want to feel the power of my Saviour's love, that it may constrain me to give myself wholly to Thee. Preserve me from ever being ashamed of Christ, and be Thou with me always, that all my doings may be begun, continued, and ended in Thee. Thou knowest all my ways. Thine eye is always upon me. O! may mine be fixed on Thee, that, ever looking unto Jesns, I may hear His voice, saying, "Thou art Mine," and I will be with Thee. Lord, I cannot see Thee, but I can draw near to Thee and tell Thee all my wants, knowing

that Thou carest for me, and art more willing to hear than I am to pray. Let me no longer look to myself, but to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of my faith, for in Him alone is my help. O Father, Thou wilt not refuse to receive me, and pardon me for the sins of the past day, for I come pleading the name and merits of Thine own beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Redeemer and Advocate. Amen.

Tuesday Morning.

O GOD OF MERCY and grace, my loving Father, who hast compassion upon all men, hear the prayer of Thy servant, and accept my humble thanksgiving for the safety of the night, and grant a blessing on the new day. May it be spent in Thy service, and in everything enable me to glorify Thee. May I grow in grace and heavenly knowledge, and be ever looking and hastening the coming of my Lord. May I ever remember, that as days and years pass I am nearer Eternity. O! give me Thy Holy Spirit, that I may live a life of faith in Christ, my Saviour. Sanctify my affections, and be Thou my guide, for without Thee I can do nothing. Make me careful to do Thy holy will, and willing, if needs be, to suffer for Thee. O blessed Jesus, let the sense of Thy wonderful love influence

my soul, and draw out my heart's warmest affections. And may I so pass through things temporal, that finally I lose not the things eternal. Let Thy grace refresh my spirit, and direct all my ways. Make me humble and spiritually minded. Convince me more and more of the evil of my heart. Give me true repentance, and create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me, and enable me by my daily life to shew that I am Thine. O Father, hear and forgive, and bless me, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Tuesday Evening.

MOST gracious God, another day has passed, and it has been full of mercies, and I would thank Thee for all Thy blessings. Thou hast been gracious unto me, and hast supplied all my wants, and Thou hast declared in Thy word, that the sins of Thy people Thou wilt remember no more. O! blot out all mine iniquities, and cast them behind Thy back. Increase my faith, that I may rest in the assurance of Thy love, and strengthen me by Thy grace, that I may place my whole being in Thy hands, to work in me as Thou wilt; for in Thee alone have I righteousness and strength. O blessed Jesus, be Thou my life, that with Thine apostle I may say, "I live, yet not I, but Christ dwelleth in me." All power is Thine, dear Saviour, to fulfil every promise, and

work every grace, and grant every blessing. O! work mightily in this poor weak heart of mine, make Thy face to shine upon me, and be gracious unto me. Cleanse Thou me from my secret faults, and give me Thy peace, which the world can neither give nor take away. Thus may I lie down to rest under Thy loving care, hearing Thy voice whispering, "Thy sins are all forgiven." Grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Advocate and Intercessor. Amen.

Wednesday Morning.

LORD, teach me to pray, and make me to know the joy of drawing near to Thee, in full assurance of faith, being washed in the blood of the Lamb. Thanks be to Thee for all the mercies of the night. Thou hast kept me through the hours of darkness, and I ask Thee to be with me still, and to watch over every thought or desire throughout the day. Keep my conscience void of offence, and give me a heart to praise Thee. I have not deserved Thy love, yet Thou hast blessed me, and goodness surrounds me on every side. Give me a more thankful spirit, less taken up with the world and its follies. And enable me to live a holy life, a life hid with Christ in God, so that when He shall appear in glory, I may be with Him. How much Thou hast seen, blessed Saviour,

displeasing to Thee, and positively wrong! Yet Thou hast borne with me, and dost invite me to come to Thee. Lord, I come, poor, for the riches of Thy grace, and needy for a fresh supply of Thy love. I am ignorant —do Thou teach me and instruct me, and guide me into all truth. I know not what is before me; but Thou knowest. May I leave all in Thy hands, and live each day nearer to Thee. Breathe into my soul heavenly desires, do with me whatever is most for Thy glory, save my soul, which Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood, and make me Thine for ever. And all I ask, gracious Father, is in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Wednesday Evening.

O THOU GRACIOUS GOD, who inhabitest eternity, yet art looking down upon Thy people, look upon me and hear my prayer. Let mine eyes be toward Thee, and may I remember into whose presence I have come. Forgive, Lord, all the sins of the past day, and let me never forget that for all I do I must give an account to Thee. Keep me by Thy grace, and place beneath me Thine everlasting arms. Preserve me from the many temptations which surround me, and from my spiritual enemies. Father, I wish to obey Thee, and to love Thee; but Satan is watching for my soul, and of myself I cannot resist him. Do Thou shield me from his snares, and lead me by Thine own hand, that I may keep close to Thee, and walk in Thy sight. Take my heart, for I

cannot give it Thee, and leave me not for one single moment, lest I stray from Thee. Thou knowest my going out and my coming in. O! direct all for Thy glory. Forgive all hardness of heart, all unkind or uncharitable words or thoughts, all unbelief, and give me grace to cast myself unreservedly on Thee, my Saviour and my Friend, to whom be all the praise, now and evermore. Amen.

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Thursday Morning.

GRACIOUS FATHER, whose arm is not shortened that it cannot save, and whose ear is not closed that it cannot hear, I come to pray for Thy blessing, and to praise Thee for Thy mercies. Be with me through the whole of this day, and may I feel that Thou art near. I come to Thee in all my emptiness, do Thou fill me out of Thy fulness, and give me more than I dare to ask. O Lord, do Thou mark out my course for me, whether it be joy or sorrow, trial or comfort. Cheer and sustain me, and may all work together for my eternal good. Keep the door of my lips that I offend not with my tongue, and may no evil temper rise in my heart. Make me gentle and kind to all around me, forbearing and forgiving to any who may injure me. Teach me to

forgive, even as Thou hast forgiven me. Bless all who are dear to me, and if any are still far from Thee, bring them nigh by the blood of Jesus, and convert them by Thine almighty power. Keep us all under Thy sheltering care, and never leave us until we are safe in Thy presence for ever. Hear and answer, O gracious Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thine own beloved Son. Amen.

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Thursday Evening.

O BLESSED SPIRIT, hear me now at the close of the day, help my infirmities, when I draw near to Thee, and teach me to pray. Blessed Jesus, my refuge and my Friend, I come to Thee, and trust in Thine all-prevailing intercession. Gracious Father, pardon all my sins and unworthiness. O! ever blessed Trinity, have mercy upon me, and bless me now. Prepare me to meet Thee, and teach me to live, that I may not be afraid to die, even if Thou shouldst call me to-night. Let my lamp be burning brightly when I hear Thy call, and may it be to me a joyful sound. Let not the world and its occupations engross my affections, but fix them on things above. Teach me to feel the joy of thine abiding presence. Lighten mine eyes that I sleep not the sleep

of death. Forgive all my sins, and give me a Father's blessing, that sleeping or waking I may be Thine. Bless all whom I love, grant them the rich blessing of Thy grace, and may they be very dear to Thee. If it please Thee, may I wake up on the morrow refreshed and strengthened to live more to Thy glory, through Jesus Christ, my Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

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Friday Morning.

MOST blessed Lord, who art the Father of mercies, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, I come before Thee to thank Thee for Thy preserving care, and for permitting me to see the light of another day, and now I ask for the continuance of Thy blessings; but, above all, I would pray for Thy Holy Spirit that every thought and motive may be in accordance with Thy mind and will. Cause me to hear Thy loving-kindness this morning, and teach me to do Thy will. O my God, let no corrupt or evil conversation proceed from my mouth, but may it ever be as becometh the Gospel of Christ. Keep the door of my lips, O Lord, that they may not offend, and may I remember that the Lord hearkens and hears, and a book of remembrance is kept, so that

for every idle word I shall have to give an account. May this solemn truth keep me watchful, lest I grieve Thy Holy Spirit. Make me careful to hurt no one, by word or deed, and enable me to make others happy. O Lord, Thou hast been very gracious to my soul, and hast redeemed it by Thy blood. Fill my heart with grateful love, that I may glorify Thee. Suffer me not to be conformed to this world, but transformed in the renewing of my mind, that I may at all times do what is acceptable to Thee. Make me slow to see the faults of others, and very watchful over my own, that by grace I may overcome them. Bless my friends with the knowledge of Thy truth, and may they all be dear to Thee, gracious Saviour, to whom with the Father and Holy Spirit be glory now and ever. Amen.

Friday Evening.

O GRACIOUS SAVIOUR, my great High Priest, who ever liveth to make intercession for me, I come to Thee, pleading Thy perfect and finished work, and pray for pardon and peace. Lord, I wish to love Thee, I wish to trust Thee, but I am weak and unable to think or do anything that is good. May Thy strength be made perfect in my weakness. I have nothing to bring to Thee but the burden of my sin, and I would lay it on Thee. Give me the witness of Thy Spirit, that I may know that my sins are all forgiven, and grant that no doubts or fears may harass me, and may Thy comforts refresh my soul. Be with Thine afflicted people, dearest Lord; there are many suffering ones around us. Speak peace to each of them; show them Thyself, the man of

sorrows acquainted with grief, willing to heal their diseases, and put away their iniquities. O Father, comfort the sorrowful, and be to them the God of all consolation. In all our afflictions Thou art afflicted; bring this truth with power to their heart, and though sorrow may endure for a night, may joy come in the morning. I commit myself, gracious Lord, and all dear to me to Thy loving care. Sleeping or waking may we be Thine, for the sake of Him whom Thou hearest always, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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Saturday Morning.

ONCE more, O gracious God, I come to Thee by Jesus Christ, my Redeemer and Mediator. May I remember that Thou art holy, and wilt not pass by iniquity and sin. Yet, Lord, Thou art waiting to forgive all who come through Jesus Christ. The new and living way is my light and my salvation, and in Him do I trust. His light has shown me my need, and His salvation has redeemed me. O, impress this blessed truth upon my soul, and increase my faith. Keep me from the evil of this world, which lieth in wickedness, and make me pure in heart. Empty me of self, and fill me with Thy Spirit, that I may bring forth the fruits of righteousness day by day, ever looking unto Jesus for grace and strength. Oh, prepare me for my Lord's return, that I may be found

in Him, and when I see the powers of evil around me, enable me to look up, and feel that my redemption draweth nigh, that when Thou callest me away, death may be the entrance into glory. Prepare me for the coming Sabbath, and may its sacred hours be spent in Thy service. Be with Thy ministers in preparing for their work, and may they be filled with Thy Spirit. Lord bless me and all whom I love, for my dear Saviour's sake. Amen.

Saturday Evening.

O LORD, help me now to praise Thee for Thy great goodness to me during the past day and week. I thank Thee for the gift of Jesus, the Lord of life and glory, who is also my Saviour and my Friend. I thank Thee for Thy Holy Spirit, who is my Comforter and Guide. Hitherto hath the Lord helped me. Lord, help me still in soul and body, that I may, by Thy grace, conquer every besetting sin and temptation. Enable me to keep in mind all Thou hast done for my soul, and may I ever commit myself to Thy safe keeping. Cause me to know more fully Thy Fatherly love to me every moment, and may I receive every gift as a fresh proof of Thy love. Order my goings in Thy ways, and what I see not, teach Thou me. Bring every thought into subjection to Christ, and

strengthen every good desire, that I may no longer live to myself, but to Thee. Be Thou my light always, to show me the way, and guide me aright, that wherever Thou leadest I may follow; whether it be through joy or sorrow, do Thou let Thy light shine in me that Thou mayest be glorified. O! for grace to cast myself unreservedly on Thee, gracious Saviour, in whose name I ask for every blessing, and to whom be all glory and praise, now and evermore. Amen.

New Year's Day.

MOST holy and eternal God, I praise Thee, I bless Thee, I give thanks to Thee for Thy great goodness. Thou hast permitted me to awake to a new year. Thou hast brought me to another stage of my earthly life, O! make it unto me a year of blessing. I know not what is before me, but Thou knowest; prepare me for whatever is Thy will, and grant me the sense of Thy presence throughout the coming year, to guide, to uphold, to strengthen, and to comfort me. Give me new thoughts and desires, and greater longings after Thee. May the world have less hold on my heart, that I may grow in the knowledge and grace of Christ my Lord. All I have, gracious Father, I owe to Thee; henceforth I desire to consecrate all to Thy service. Renew my affections, and

set them entirely on things above; let me no longer live to myself, but to Thee. May I love much as one reconciled, and to whom much has been forgiven. O God, be Thou my refuge and strength; on Thee do I rest all my hopes for time and eternity, and if this year should prove my last, prepare me to meet Thee in those blessed mansions which Thou hast prepared for all who love Thee. Keep me from all evil, and give me grace by Thy Holy Spirit to resist the temptations of the world, that I may not be conformed to it, but, loving Thee above all things, may be enabled to glorify Thee in the least as well as the greatest actions of my future life. Be pleased to bless all who are dear to me. O! renew them by Thy Holy Spirit. May they too be consecrated at the beginning of this year and live to Thy praise. Lord increase our faith, quicken our cold

hearts, preserve us from unbelief, and fill us with Thy grace, and at last may we meet around Thy throne, and be with Thee for ever and for evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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For Last Day of the Year.

O LORD OUR GOD, hear me now when I come before Thee at the close of the year to bless Thy holy name for Thy gracious protection vouchsafed unto me. Thou hast defended me from innumerable evils, and preserved me from unseen dangers. Thou hast continued to me the comforts of life and the means of grace. Thine eye has seen me, Thine ear has heard me, and Thou hast known my every secret thought. O Father, forgive all that has been displeasing to Thee, blot out my transgressions, and wash me in the precious fountain of my Saviour's blood. Pardon all the sins and follies of my life, and the weakness of my services. Many, gracious Lord, have been called away to stand before Thee and give their last account; I am spared, a monument

of Thy mercy; may the life thus lengthened be for Thy glory. Teach me to watch for the time when Thou, dear Lord, shalt appear to be glorified in Thy saints, and when I shall see Thee and be satisfied with Thy likeness. Thou hast been my helper during the year that is past, therefore, under the shadow of Thy wing, I will trust Thee for future blessings. O blessed Saviour, perfect Thy strength in my weakness, and give me Thy Holy Spirit to purify my heart, and to witness within me that I am indeed Thy child. Bless all whom I love, far and near, and lift up the light of Thy countenance upon them. If any are far from Thee, oh! plead with them, and enable them to yield themselves to Thee, that henceforth and forever we may be one in Thee. I ask all, my Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, my blessed Redeemer. Amen.

Before a Journey.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast taught me to make all my requests unto Thee, and who art ever more ready to hear than Thy children are to pray, I come to ask for Thy blessing on the journey that is before me. May Thy presence go with me, and may I be enabled to realize that Thou art with me in all places and at all times. O Lord, be Thou my guide under all circumstances; may Thine eye be over me, and Thy hand lead me. Do Thou graciously guard me from unseen dangers and from evil of every kind, and preserve me from sin and from forgetfulness of Thee. And if it be Thy will, enable me to return in peace and safety, with Thy favour and blessing, that I may serve Thee more faithfully and more humbly. O Father, never leave me nor forsake me, let me

never let go my hold of Thee, and do Thou with me what seems good in Thine eyes. Sanctify my thoughts and affections, and let me never forget that I am Thy child. May this journey be for Thy glory. Preserve my going out and my coming in, and may I ever be reminded that this is not my rest, but that I seek a better, that is, a heavenly city! Bless all I have left behind, watch between me and them whilst we are absent one from another, and if it be Thy will, Lord, may we meet again on earth, and if not, oh! bring us all to Thy heavenly kingdom, where there are no partings, and where we shall dwell in Thy presence, and praise Thee through all eternity. I ask all, my Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

For a Birthday.

O ALMIGHTY and gracious God! my Father in Christ Jesus, I come before Thee to thank Thee and praise Thy holy name for all Thy mercies to me during the years that are past. Goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life; yet, Lord, how ungrateful I have been, how unmindful of Thy mercies and Thy love! O! forgive all my past sins and shortcomings—sins against light and knowledge, as well as sins of ignorance and thoughtlessness. Give unto Thy servant true and deep repentance, and give me grace to follow Thee more closely, and to be henceforth one of Thy true and faithful servants. On this day I would consecrate myself afresh to Thee.

I desire, Lord, to give myself wholly to Thee, and to feel the power of my Saviour's love more than ever I have done before. When I look back on the way Thou hast led me, my heart is filled with thankfulness, both for mercies granted or withheld. Thy banner over me is love! Draw me now, dear Lord, that I may run after Thee, and never wander from Thy paths. Sanctify my thoughts, my motives, my desires, that in all things I may glorify Thee. Gracious Spirit, come down in Thy mighty power, and help me to perform my vows, and to be faithful to my promises. Thou knowest my weakness and my proneness to forget Thee. O! confirm and strengthen me in every good resolution, and preserve me from ever being ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Make it henceforth to be my humble endeavour to lead others to Thee, and to teach them to know Thy great

love to them. Make me a fruitful branch of the living vine, so that, abiding in Christ, I may bear much fruit to the glory of Thy name, through Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

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In Sorrow or Affliction.

O ETERNAL GOD, the Father of mercies and God of all consolation, I beseech Thee to look upon Thy servant, and to speak comfort to my heart. Lord, I am oppressed: undertake for me. Thou knowest the sorrows of Thy children, and in all their affliction Thou art afflicted. O! may Thy grace refresh my spirit, and Thy comforts support me! Thou, Lord, art good and gracious; enable me to trust in Thy mercy, and to lay hold of Thy gracious promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." O! send Thy Holy Spirit to speak peace to my sorrowing heart. Enable me to feel that Thy hand is dealing with me, and that Thou art near. Grant, Lord, that this chastening, now so grievous, may afterwards yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Give me power to

bear Thy will, and, whilst my heart is sad, may my spirit rejoice in Thee. Teach me that this affliction is from a Father's hand, and that He doeth all things well; thus may it be sanctified to my soul. Keep me, Lord, from murmuring, and let me never doubt Thy wisdom or Thy love. O! bless this time of sorrow, and give me comfort from above. Let me not shrink from taking up the daily cross, and do Thou help me to bear it cheerfully. Let Thy merciful kindness be my comfort; for I know that Thou in mercy hast afflicted Thy servant. Enable me, day by day, to cast all my care upon Thee, knowing that Thou carest for me; and give me a childlike confidence in Thy Fatherly care. Let me never forget Thy love, but may Thy Holy Spirit write it on my heart, and ever bring it to my remembrance. Whether in joy or sorrow, be Thou

glorified in me. And all I ask, gracious Father, is in the name, and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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In Time of Sickness.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, who art the help of all who trust in Thee, incline Thine ear unto me, for I am poor and needy. Thou hast called me to rest awhile from the cares and duties of life, and laid me on this bed of weakness and pain. O Lord, grant me the comfort of Thy presence, and may Thy Holy Spirit bring Thy precious promises to my remembrance. Enable me to rely upon them, and to realize that they are Thine own thoughts of love towards me. I know, gracious Lord, that Thou dost not willingly afflict Thy children. O! look upon me with pity and compassion, be gracious unto me, and grant me submission to all Thy dealings. Thou knowest my frame,

and rememberest that I am but dust. Thou knowest my weakness. I can neither think or do anything that is good. Teach me to rest in Thy love, and let grace increase in my heart. I know not, O Father, what a day may bring forth, and whether this sickness may be unto death; but I can trust Thee, to make it, and all things, work together for my good. O! prepare me for my Master's call, or my Saviour's return, and make me very watchful. Let it be good for me that I have been afflicted, and enable me by Thy Holy Spirit to promote Thy glory, and shew forth Thy praise. Make me very gentle and patient, as well as grateful for the loving care bestowed upon me. And when earthly days are done, gracious Father, receive me into Thy heavenly kingdom, where mine eyes shall see the King in His beauty, and where the inhabitants will no

more say, "I am sick"—for all sin will be forgiven. I ask all for the sake and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

On Recovery from Sickness.

O LORD GOD, the strength of our health, who givest us life and breath and all things, accept, I beseech Thee, my humble and hearty thanks for Thy great mercy in restoring me to health. Grant that my renewed powers may be used for Thy glory. O blessed Jesus, Thou didst bear our sicknesses as well as our sins and sorrows, and Thou art a very present help to all who call upon Thee. Enable me to praise Thee for Thy goodness and love to me, and may my soul bless Thee, and sing of Thy mercy. Give me grace to spend the life, which Thou hast lengthened, in Thy service, and grant me Thy Holy Spirit to enable me to live closer to Thee, so that as my strength increases, my resolutions may grow stronger, and my faith and love in-

crease. What Thou hast further for me to do or suffer, Thou alone knowest. I would leave all with Thee, and into Thy hands commit my spirit, so that, living or dying, I may be Thine. Enable me, O Lord, daily to honour Thee. Kindle in my soul sincere and holy love, and teach me to delight in Thy commands. It is Thou, Lord, who hast chastened and corrected me, and hast in mercy restored me. May the life which Thou hast graciously spared be wholly consecrated to Thee! Teach me so to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom, and teach me to live each day as I shall wish I had done when I stand before Thee. Let me never murmur at Thy will, but by Thy Holy Spirit have grace to serve Thee faithfully all the remainder of my life. O Father, hear and bless me, for the sake of Jesus, my Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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